

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ICAE-00 SS-15 H-01 PA-01 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 STR-07
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /074 W
-----090031 231714Z /53

O R 231700Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6413
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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USMISSION GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, UK, XT, US
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BRITISH MINISTERS VISIT BONN AND
PARIS TO DISCUSS AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

REF: LONDON 7810

1. ERIC VARLEY, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY,
AND EDMUND DELL, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE, ARE
TO ARRIVE IN BONN TODAY, MAY 23, FOR TALKS WITH
MARTIN GRUNER, STATE SECRETARY AT THE FRG MINISTRY
FOR ECONOMICS. THE TALKS WILL CENTER ON THE
PROSPECTS OF COOPERATION IN THE CIVILIAN AEROSPACE
FIELD, PARTICULARLY ON 130-220 SEAT MID-RANGE
AIRLINERS. VARLEY AND DELL WILL THEN GO ON TO
PARIS FOR SIMILAR TALKS WITH J. LETHEULE, FRENCH
MINISTER OF TRANSPORT.

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2. EMBASSY LONDON WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION
EMBASSIES BONN AND PARIS CAN DEVELOP REGARDING
THE COURSE OF THESE TALKS.

3. VARLEY DISCUSSED THE MATTER IN THE HOUSE OF
COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD MAY 22. THE PRINCIPAL
POINTS OF INTEREST, AS REPORTED BY THE LONDON

TIMES, WERE HIS STATEMENTS THAT:

A. THE FACTORS BEING TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION
IN MAKING THE BRITISH DECISION "ARE MAINLY
COMMERCIAL".

B. "BRITISH AEROSPACE ARE WILLING TO DISCUSS FUR-
THER WITH BOEING BUT OF COURSE THEIR TOP
CONSIDERATION HAS TO BE GIVEN TO THE COMMIT-
MENT THEY HAVE MADE TO THE EUROPEAN INTEREST."

(COMMENT: THIS OF COURSE WAS A COMMITMENT
NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH OTHERS WHILE NEGOTIATING
WITH THE EUROPEANS, NOT A COMMITMENT TO JOIN
THE EUROPEANS IN PRODUCING AIRCRAFT.)

C. ADJUSTMENT OF THE FIGURES USED TO COMPARE THE
DIFFERENT PROJECTS "TO ENSURE THAT THEY DO NOT
REFLECT PRESENT DISGRACEFUL DISCRIMINATION
AGAINST BRITISH AIRCRAFT IN FAVOUR OF AMERICAN
AIRCRAFT IN THE PRESENT SET-UP OF CUSTOMS
DUTIES" (AS MP JOHN COPE PUT IT) IS "ONE OF
THE FACTORS BEING EXAMINED." (COMMENT: OUR
UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE U.S. DUTY ON AIR-
LINERS AND SEPARATE ENGINES IS 5 PER CENT,
WHILE THE EFFECTIVE U.K. (AND EEC) DUTY IS
ZERO.)

STREATOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AEROSPACE INDUSTRY, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LONDON08155
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: ALSO FOR USMTN
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780216-1071
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780530/aaaaayqo.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a7970799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 7810
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2607088
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: BRITISH MINISTERS VISIT BONN AND PARIS TO DISCUSS AEROSPACE INDUSTRY
TAGS: EAIR, ETRD, UK, XT, US, (VARLEY, ERIC)
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a7970799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014